THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) As per policy local dialing without "0" (On code "95") is provided up to 200 Kms. for intra circle "calls and calls between Delhi SDCA and SDCAs located in NCR. Delhi and Chandigarh form part of different Telecom Circles and Chandigarh not being part of NCR, local dialing without "0" therefore has not been provided between them.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Not applicable in view of (b) above.

Investment in Sankhya Vahini Project

986. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a provision of Rs. 94.25 crore has been earmarked for the year 2000-2001 as initial investment in the Sankhya Vahini Project conceived by IT Task Force;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have entered into a joint venture project with IU-Net, a fully owned subsidiary of Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsberg, USA without undertaking any study/project report; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons for choosing the above subsidiary/ company for the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A provision of Rs. 94.26 crore was made in Budget Estimates for the year 2000-2001 to meet the expenditure from Department of Telecommunications (DoT) side in this project, as is the normal practice for all DoT project. This amount was sought on a provisional basis only, to be adjusted at the time of Revised Estimates 2000-2001.

(c) and (d) As on date, on Joint Venture Agreement with IU-Net has been entered into.